

Charter Township of Orion

Meeting Minutes

Senior Advisory Council April 2, 2014

Members present: Glendon Smith, George Hanley, Mark Thurber, Lisa Sokol, Nancy Fischer, Karen Knox, David Mansfield, Ian Locke, Bob Hazzard, George Sinnott, Evelyn Doyle, Elinor Smith, Delores VoVillia

Member absent: William Schramm, Penny Shults, Mike Nebel

Guests: Chris Barnett, Lyndon Potter

Meeting called to order at 9:03 AM

Meeting minutes for March meeting were approved after a spelling correction for Elinor Smith

Mark Thurber again discussed his intent to create an investment roundtable comprised of about 10 residents to review Orion Township investments. He would present information regarding Township investments as well as the investment vision and plan while looking for feedback. Ian Locke offered the services of ONTV to promote the roundtable.

NOTA was unable to attend this meeting, but will be at our next meeting. Someone mentioned that NOTA has refused service to someone who owns a car and has a drivers license. Mark is on the NOTA Board and will contact NOTA to request a report on service rules for our next meeting. It is also noted that NOTA will have a millage ballot initiative this year to assist with NOTA funding.

Chris Barnett and Lyndon Potter, a student at Stadium Elementary School, joined us, Lyndon is interested in politics and described a day with Chris Barnett to our group. Expanding on the outreach to young people, Chris also discussed the recently formed Township Youth Council. The Council is made up of eleven high school age people, each of whom submitted an application and two letters of recommendation. The council has already formed three subcommittees- -Environmental, Business Development and Community Activities. Evelyn Doyle suggested our members meet with the council to discuss common interests. Committee members along with Chris Barnett will attend the next meeting as the first item on the agenda. The Business Development group has already been active, suggesting an attempt to attract a Chipotle's Restaurant to the area.

George Hanley suggested partnering with the Township Environmental Committee with Youth Council Environmental group, in particular to address invasive species.

Chris Barnett stated that the Township is working on plans to improve the Brown Road Corridor. Our relationship with Beaumont Hospital and Crank's Catering is going well. It was decided that our next meeting will start at 8:30 AM to accommodate schedules for members of the Youth Council.

Director's Report – Lisa

There will be a volunteer's appreciation and recognition event on April 16th, advise Lisa if anyone has been missed on the invitation list that was passed out during the meeting.

The Wildlife Council is partnering with Waste Management to enhance the habitat for wildlife at the Orion Center, parks and trails. The Wildlife Council can help with bird count, etc. Lisa would like to start walking groups as well as birding groups.

ONTV is starting another new class in Studio Production which will be held on Wednesdays from 1 - 3 PM starting May 7th and running weekly thru June 4th.

Lisa is working with ONTV to start a new program series called GNN (Good News Network) focusing on all the good things that are happening in Orion Township.

Community Gardens are being implemented at Friendship Park. The new Dragon's Den playground at Friendship Park will be dedicated on April 12th. Soul Sisters, Inc. is raising funds to support installation of a special needs accessible playground at this location.

Two new expos scheduled, Senior Expo and Community Business Expo. The Community Business Expo may offer the potential to partner with several of the companies to sponsor Senior Programs.

Two runs are planned, the Dragon Dash and Run Wild. Run Wild is supported by the Brooksie Way Foundation.

Lisa reports that the Army Reserve Band may be playing at Wildwood on July 4th.

The Township has also applied for a Land, Water, Conservation Fund grant in the amount of \$100K to help fund the \$220K cost of lighting two ball fields at Friendship Park. Letters of support were requested from interested individuals.

Lisa is currently working with our web site consultants to improve the site. Another edition of Constant Contact will be published soon.

Lisa is working the Beaumont Hospital to put together programs for Orion Seniors. Lisa solicited the group for topics for the Beaumont Hospital team to address. ONTV will also be involved and will work to create segments that can be broadcast on ONTV.

George Hanley reported on the Friends of Orion Center Seniors, the Friends will fund 50% of an extra North Oakland Concert Band concert. They are also investigating obtaining weights for the exercise room. The "Friends" are also going to raise funds by selling water at the Orion Township concert series.

Karen Knox presented the library programs. She emphasized April 7th as Money Smart Week, April 14th as National Library Week, free training on Pinterest, an April 14th at 6:30 talk by someone who walked 1000 miles around the great lakes and the April 26th Library fund raising Gala focused on Rome at 7:00. She also stated that tech training on lynda.com is free if you have a library card

ONTV will have their volunteer appreciation banquet on April 11th at Canterbury Village. ONTV will have a new Outreach person (Ian Witherspoon). Ian Locke also stated that his people are interested in working with seniors on technical issues whenever they can be of assistance.

The Message boards at the Orion Center are still not working. There are a couple of technical issues to be resolved as well as wiring and cost issues. An electronic outdoor sign has been purchased and will be used to promote Parks and Recreation, Senior Services and Beaumont Hospital programs as well as ONTV .

ONTV will be doing another series to promote our lakes and trails, they will also be offering more coverage of Oakland County Government through a partnership with the County.

Karen and Lisa have partnered on technology classes for seniors, these may not occur until fall but would include, How to get devices, petting zoo (Try before you buy), and a Q & A sharing session. ONTV offered their assistance for this type of program.

George Sinnott reported on ONTV's Active living series. Two segments were completed last month, one on the Orion Center's Ham Radio Club and the second on Jim Robeck's trip to Israel and Jordan. Future programs include "The Bickerson's" done by the Orion Center Players and a program on Hawk Woods, a park in Auburn Hills.

Parks and Recreation are researching grants, this effort could be expanded to Senior Services. Sign up sheets for volunteers were circulated, including to support the Senior Expo on May 21.

Lisa would like to get grants to buy exercise stations near the Polly Ann Trail.

Meeting was adjourned approximately 11:05 AM

Submitted,

George Sinnott
Secretary